

Message Text

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54

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-07 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 /078 W

----- 040796

R 071538Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8629

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 5731

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: MOBUTU CELEBRATES US BICENTENNIAL

1. IN WHAT MUST BE UNIQUE OCCASION IN KINSHASA, ON EVENING JULY 6 MOBUTU INVITED ALL MEMBERS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY -- BUSINESSMEN, CONTRACT WORKERS, MISSIONARIES, OFFICIALS, TOURISTS -- TO A RECEPTION AT HIS RESIDENCE IN CELEBRATION OF US BICENTENNIAL. MOST MEMBERS OF POLITICAL BUREAU AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WERE ALSO THERE, AS WAS MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH WHO IS VISITING KINSHASA EN ROUTE HOME FROM OAU SUMMIT. MOBUTU GREETED ALL AMERICANS INDIVIDUALLY AND EVEN ACCEPTED INVITATION FROM YOUNG AMERICAN LADY TO DANCE. THE FESTIVITIES, WHICH FEATURED BOTH POPULAR AND MILITARY BANDS, WERE FULLY COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA.

2. THIS UNUSUAL GESTURE WAS MOBUTU'S PERSONAL IDEA, HATCHED FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH HIM LAST WEEK DURING WHICH I OUTLINED SOME OF THE BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED BY THE EMBASSY AND AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. MOBUTU SEEMED GENUINELY TO ENJOY HIS PARTY. FOR THE LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS IN ZAIRE -- MANY OF WHOM HAVE LIVED THROUGH VERY DIFFICULT DAYS HERE -- THE PRESIDENT'S GESTURE WAS BOTH SURPRISING AND RE-

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ASSURING.

CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA05731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760262-0418
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760785/aaaacwgn.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU CELEBRATES US BICENTENNIAL
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, US, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006